



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

February 17, 2022

Matt Pagac, Executive Director
Stambaugh Auditorium
1000 5th Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio 44504

Dear Mr. Pagac:

On behalf of hardworking Ohioans in Youngstown and throughout the Mahoning Valley, we write to express our concern for workers who are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 101. It is our understanding that recent discussions with IATSE have not resulted in an equitable agreement. This process can only be successful when both parties bargain in good faith, with a shared goal of reaching a fair contract. A concerted effort to reach a fair and equitable agreement will benefit the arts, workers, and the entire Mahoning Valley.

The Mahoning Valley is fortunate to have a strong and robust arts culture that makes this community a more vibrant place to live and work. We know how important your work is. This is why we fought so hard for the inclusion of the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) in the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

For more than 50 years, IATSE workers have made arts organizations successful in the Valley, and contributed to the fabric of this community. It is deeply troubling that an agreement cannot be reached to ensure these workers are treated with dignity. All workers have the right to collectively bargain in good faith – these workers are integral to the operation and success of the Valley's arts and entertainment culture, and they deserve a fair contract that honors their contributions to the community. The goal must be a mutually beneficial outcome for all parties.

We urge you to reconsider this decision and put a new emphasis on negotiating a fair agreement with these workers. We will continue to monitor this important community issue. Please don't hesitate to call on us if we can be of assistance.

United States Senator Sherrod Brown

Sincerely,

United States Congressman Tim Ryan

CC:

Dr. John Cox, The Youngstown Playhouse
Patricia Syak, The Youngstown Symphony
DeYor Performing Arts Center